



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Thursday, May 15, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Budget Meeting
Alfreda Schmidt, Sandy Allen Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Wood called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar- absent
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Council Member Brian T. Jackson
Councilmember Peter Spadafore- excused
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington- arrived at 5:34 p.m.
Councilmember Carol Wood

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney- arrived at 5:43 p.m.
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Citizen Advocate
Angie Bennett, Finance Director – arrived at 5:39 p.m.
Heather Sumner, Deputy City Attorney - arrived at 5:45 p.m.
Claude Beavers
Loretta Stanaway
Karl Biasi
Kathy Tobe
Joe Winkial

Council President Wood gave an overview of the budget which included a proposal of additional staffing; those contract employees moving to part time staff, new staff in Treasury and a new Social Worker in the LPD. In the highlights for the public, she noted that the proposed budget will also include addition fees in recycling, some fees in public service and designated spending on infrastructure.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Beavers acknowledge the Committee for their work and the staff for their presentations. He then went on to refer to comments at a recent Council meeting where it was stated there is “top-heavy” administration, and his hopes the Council will error on the side of the new Mayor

for his first year. Mr. Beavers concerns with the budget were specific to LEPFA, what salaries are paid to LEAP and what comes back to the City as noted in their budget presentation.

Mr. Biasi spoke in support of the Police, Fire and Parks Department. Mr. Biasi did have concerns with the nuisances in the neighborhoods, the loss of the Neighborhood Council and ask the Council to meet with the neighborhoods not just attend their meetings.

Ms. Stanaway listed for the Committee her priorities for the budget that began with a focus on Police, Fire, the roads and then code enforcement. Ms. Stanaway then listed her suggestions for cuts that were Sister Cities, Faith Based Initiative and the LEPFA subsidy. Lastly, she suggested that Council consider developing Waverly and the Red Cedar instead of selling.

Ms. Tobe started her comments by referencing Mayor Schor's motto "Our Time is Now", and asked Council to take action now on the budget items that need to be addressed including the City Market and Common Ground which were created to be self-sufficient. At that. Ms. Kathy then went into her next thought, looking into preventive maintenance. Ms. Tobe then asked for funding for the preventative maintenance and ongoing maintenance of the parks, buildings and property the City already has. Lastly, Ms. Tobe asked that Council pursue making sure the mileages that the public pay are outlined and have a transparent detail on their spending.

Mr. Beavers asked if there was a potential for bonding for the roads since it was stated at the Committee meeting on May 14th that it was not possible because of the CSO project. Ms. Bennett stated that if they bond, that would extend the life of the bonds and tie up funds for future years. The current CSP project is bonded, and if the City bonded for more roads, that would use up more of the ACT 51 funds, and therefore there would be less of the ACT 51 funds for other projects. Mr. Beavers stated he heard that there are candidates for the County Commissioners that are proposing bonds for road, county wide.

Ms. Stanaway spoke in opposition to incentives for profit for private developers.

Council Member Jackson asked if the public would want Council to consider finding more funds for the roads in addition the proposed \$400,000, and if those funds should come from keeping current contract employees contracted. Council President Wood stated she would ask the Internal Auditor to determine what amount that would be if they did not make part time or full time and have to pay benefits.

Council Member Hussain spoke in support of the comments made by the public and suggested for the next budget looking for performance based outcomes from all the departments.

Council Member Garza spoke in support of the public comments made and supported the additional premise officers, and stated an interest in more police offices on the roads.

Council Member Washington agreed with the earlier statement on preventative maintenance funds, and also agreed to not fund Sister Cities or Faith Based Initiative. She then proposed taking the \$80,000 LEPFA subsidy for the City Market and putting towards a new corridor enforcement officer. Lastly she noted her concern with all the neighborhood positions, with multiple people in one role.

Council Member Spitzley voiced her concern with waiting another year to take any action on budget items and positions that Council has a concern with, because those positions will then be engrained into the Administration and might not be as easy to eliminate. She also agreed with all the comments on additional enforcement officers, and questioned the need for five (5)

neighborhood community positions when it appear there are duplication, and the administration appears to be "top heavy". Council Member Spitzley suggested phasing out LEPFA and cut the budget to give them the incentive to become self-sufficient.

Ms. Tobe asked the Council not to consider any cuts from Parks and Recreation.

Council President Wood acknowledged that the budget addresses some concerns Council has spoken about over the last couple years, but there are other items that are not on target. One of those being Sister Cities which she stated was to be phased out and self-sufficient since 2005. She asked if the Council wanted to consider making only one change to the budget this year, and that would be only adding funding for the enforcement officer, and eliminating all the other recommended budget changes made by the Mayor.

Council Member Garza inquired into grants for enforcement officers. Council Members noted that there are grants that have strict priorities that the grant funds have to be tied to, and it would be difficult unless they could tie it to some type of criminal justice.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 21, 2018